

is there a duplication of services here? In my mind if we did away with the conservation districts especially in this local area, I'm not sure the NRDs would do that work. They've become reliant upon the conservation districts to do that kind of work and if it's working I guess I can't see the reason for destroying the mechanism that is in place. I would defer the remainder of my time to Senator Lamb who is a member of the Public Works Committee which put this bill out.

PRESIDENT: Senator Sieck, you are recognized. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, at one time I agreed with what Senator Beutler is saying. I had a similar amendment on previous bills, but after serving on the Public Works Committee for a number of years I have come to appreciate the fact that those people out there in those districts where those conservation districts are located are appreciative of the work that is being done out there. And while it does not affect my legislative district, it is a small area out there that has those. They do a good job and those people tell me that they are willing to suffer this so-called double taxation because they are giving a service and I would oppose the Beutler amendment and support the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I also am opposed to the amendment. We have a group of people out here who are serving without salary and we have a group of people out here who have done a tremendous job as far as finding out what is happening to our groundwater, what is happening with the nitrate. I attended a meeting there this fall and discovered really what they have accomplished and whether the NRD can do it is, we don't know. And I know they have good cooperation with the NRD because I checked that out. They have a beautiful working relationship so there is really no problem in that particular area. But what I see is these board members of the several different groundwater conservation districts that are serving without pay and doing a job there and are dedicated and it's very difficult for me to say no to something that we have out there in that fashion. Thank you.